Community Engagement Pathways

Join UServeUtah as we embark on a journey toward increased community engagement! There are many different paths we can take to our destination, and these paths intersect with and rely on each other. The Community Engagement Pathways serve as a tool and a guide to illustrate the various ways by which Utahns can give back to their communities and get more involved.

There is no one single path, and people move in and out of these pathways over time. Certain pathways may speak to your passions or causes close to your heart. Other pathways may align with your career or specialized skills. No matter the reason for embarking on this journey, UServeUtah is committed to

providing the tools and resources necessary for all Utahns to engage with their communities in meaningful and impactful ways.

This framework will guide UServeUtah's work and programming in the coming years. In 2021 UServeUtah will release a diagnostic tool to help you identify the pathways with which you most closely align and provide you with opportunities to engage in those pathways throughout the state. Funding for this project is being provided by the Volunteer Generation Fund.

The Community Engagement Pathways have been adapted with permission from the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University.

Direct Service

Working to address the immediate needs of individuals or a community. Through this pathway you can provide direct service through volunteerism such as cleaning up a park, serving meals at a soup kitchen, or tutoring students.

Policy and Governance

Participating in political processes, policymaking, and public governance. Getting involved in the political process on a local level has a tremendous impact. Using your time, voice, and talents to get involved can strengthen the lives of people in your community.

Community Organizing and Activism

Involving, educating, and mobilizing individual or collective action to influence or persuade people or institutions of government. Organizing your community can have a tremendous impact, because it allows community members an opportunity to use their voice and collaborate to address key issues.

Philanthropy

Donating or using private funds or charitable contributions from individuals or institutions to contribute to the public good. Even if you do not have the resources to give yourself, you can spend time organizing and encouraging monetary or in-kind donations from those who do.

Community Engaged Learning and Research

Connecting coursework and academic research to community-identified concerns to enrich knowledge and inform action on social issues. This pathway allows people and organizations to make informed and thoughtful choices to effectively address community issues.

Social Entrepreneurship and Corporate Social Responsibility

Using ethical business or private sector approaches to create or expand market-oriented responses to social or environmental concerns. The private sector is a crucial part of responsible community engagement.